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Sept. 15, 1917

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS NURSING SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information for Dietitians

A Committee on Dietitians of the American Red Cross was appointed in 1916 by the National Committee on Nursing Service to pass upon the credentials of applicants for the Dietitian Service of the American Red Cross, not only for active service with the Society in any emergency that may arise, but as instructors in the Red Cross course in Home Dietetics. This Committee was also made responsible for the establishment of uniform standards for the enrollment of Dietitians.

In making selection of Dietitians for assignment to active service, preference will be given to those who have had practical experience as Hospital Dietitians. Opportunities for such service are limited.

There are widening opportunities for Instructors, chiefly through the agency of Red Cross Chapters. The course of instruction for women, which has been provided by the Red Cross and placed under the Bureau of Instruction at National Headquarters, deals with the importance of a well-balanced diet for adults, children, and invalids; the proper selection and comparative nutritive value of foods; and the underlying principles of dietetics, together with the practical application of this knowledge to buying, cooking, and serving food.

Instructors in this course are subject to the regulations of the Red Cross Nursing Service. For further information on these regulations, dietitians may confer with the educational committee of the nearest Red Cross Chapter.

COMMITTEE ON RED CROSS DIETITIAN SERVICE.

EX OFFICIO MEMBER.

Miss JANE A. DELANO, *Chairman, National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service.*

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE.

Miss Emma H. Gunther, Chairman, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.

Miss Isabel Ely Lord, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Miss Annie W. Goodrich, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.

Miss Elva A. George, Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

An enlarged Committee was found necessary, which includes the following members:

Miss Grace E. McCullough, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Miss Mary A. Lindsley, Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

Miss Ada Z. Fish, William Penn High School, Philadelphia, Pa.

Miss Edna White, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Miss Effie Raitt, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

Miss Emma Smedley, Philadelphia, Pa.

Miss Ruth Wheeler, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

Miss Lenna Cooper, Battle Creek Sanitarium, Battle Creek, Mich.

Miss Catherine J. MacKay, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Dr. Agnes F. Morgan, University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

Miss Helen M. Pope, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Other members may be added to this Committee, as necessary.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT.

The minimum requirements for enrollment, except where otherwise indicated, are as follows:

1. TECHNICAL EDUCATION:

To be eligible for enrollment, an applicant must be a graduate of an approved school of household economics, giving at least a two years' course of training, or its equivalent.

2. EXPERIENCE:

For appointment as a Dietitian for active duty, institutional experience will be required; while for the position of Instructor in Home Dietetics, the applicant must have had teaching experience. Exceptions to the educational requirements may be made if, in the opinion of the Committee, the applicant has had experience which could be accepted as equivalent.

3. AGE LIMIT:

Applicants should be between twenty-three and fifty years of age. Exceptions to this requirement may be made by the National Committee for those enrolling for special service under the Red Cross.

4. PERSONAL INTERVIEW:

An applicant may, at the discretion of a local Committee, be required to give a personal interview with a member of the Committee or some one appointed by the Committee.

5. ENDORSEMENT:

An applicant must be endorsed by the director or principal of the school from which she was graduated, and by the superintendent of the hospital or school by whom she has been employed. She must also be recommended by two other persons.

Her application must be approved by the Committee on Dietitians.

Final decision with regard to all applicants rests with the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service.

6. APPOINTMENT:

An approved applicant for enrollment will receive an appointment card bearing a number, record of which will be kept on file at Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C. The card will remain at all times the property of the American Red Cross.

A badge bearing the appointment card number will be furnished by the American Red Cross on payment of \$1.50. This is subject to recall, with purchase price refunded. Dietitians desiring this badge should ask for it when applying to National Headquarters for enrollment. Payment may be made on receipt of formal appointment card.

An instructor's card will be issued to those who have sent in a class roll for the course in Home Dietetics, bearing the Instructor's name, together with registration fees of members of class.

7. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

Dietitians need not take a physical examination at the time of enrollment unless especially requested to do so.

8. UNIFORM:

Unless otherwise specified, Red Cross Dietitians, when called upon for active service, will be allowed to wear a white uniform, but will not be permitted to wear the Red Cross cap and brassard.

9. RESPONSE TO CALL:

Dietitians enrolling for active duty are expected to state for which of the following services they are available:

- (a) In their own locality.
- (b) Anywhere in the United States.
- (c) Wherever needed.

If called upon for service in time of war, Dietitians would be required to take the following oath of allegiance as specified in Army Regulations:

"OATH: I of
in the County of and State of
.....do solemnly swear (or affirm) that
I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States
against all enemies, Foreign and Domestic; that I will bear true
faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely,
without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that
I will well and faithfully perform the duties of the office on which
I am about to enter. So help me God."

The above oath does not affect the citizenship of the Dietitian, but is operative during the period of her employment in time of war.

10. COMPENSATION:

Enrolled Red Cross Dietitians receive no compensation except when on active duty. When called upon to serve with a Base Hospital Unit, they will receive \$50 a month in the United States and \$60 a month elsewhere, plus maintenance and traveling expenses. The Red Cross has fixed upon \$4 for each lesson as the maximum fee for Instructors.

11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Each enrolled Dietitian is expected to report to Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C., any change of name or address.

12. RESIGNATION:

Enrolled Red Cross Dietitians may resign, but should do so in writing to the Chairman of the National Committee on Nursing Service, Washington, D. C.

13. ANNULMENT OF APPOINTMENT:

The appointment of an enrolled Dietitian may be annulled by the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service for any cause deemed by it to be sufficient, or upon a recommendation by a two-third vote of the Committee on Dietitians.

14. ASSIGNMENTS TO POSITIONS:

Dietitians selected for service with Base Hospital Units will be under the supervision of the Chief Nurse of the Unit. Enrolled instructors may be employed directly by Red Cross Chapters, teaching centers, or classes, or may be informed of opportunities to instruct through the Bureau of Instruction, Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Instructors must be regularly enrolled in the Dietitian Service of the Red Cross.

15. INFORMATION RELATING TO CLASSES:

The course in Home Dietetics consists of fifteen lessons of two hours each. Full particulars explaining the management of the classes will be forwarded upon request. A text book has been prepared by Miss A. Z. Fish, William Penn High School, Philadelphia, and may be purchased from the Red Cross at a cost of seventy-five (75) cents.

Dietitians wishing to enroll for any service should fill out an application blank and a filing card, and return the same to the Chairman, National Committee on Nursing Service, Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

In the case of Dietitians selected for Committee work, exceptions to the usual requirements for enrollment of Dietitians may be made at the discretion of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service.

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